

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 539

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor, recognize and pay tribute to the
Cannon Courier on the occasion of the
publication's 130th anniversary.

WHEREAS, local reporting, of which the *Cannon Courier* has been an integral part, has helped to weave the very fabric of our rural communities chronicling the events of births, deaths, family, farm, history, political, and the social well-being of Cannon County; and

WHEREAS, the county's first newspaper was published in 1871 by Bennett and Hight under the name the *Woodbury Press*; and

WHEREAS, the newspaper was first named the *Cannon Courier* in 1883, and despite numerous name changes, it has consistently been known as the *Cannon Courier* since 1906; and

WHEREAS, the paper has undergone numerous editors and thrived under the leaderships of a variety of editors, including State Representative James H. "Mister Jim" Cummings from 1915-1918; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, the editor of the paper was Minor Bragg, father of State Representative John Bragg and grandfather of Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg and Circuit Judge David Bragg; and

WHEREAS, Hayden Smith, the youngest editor in the history of the *Cannon Courier*, bought the paper from Minor Bragg in 1933, when he was a freshman in high school; he served as Editor until 1950; and

WHEREAS, in 1934, a fire destroyed the printing facilities and files of the *Courier*, forcing the paper to open in a new location; and

WHEREAS, the *Courier* was operated by R. Mel Bryson from 1950-1980, when State Representative Bragg's sons, David and Tommy, bought the newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Andy Bryson and his sister, Susan Sain, bought the paper in 1995; a year later, Mr. Bryson purchased his sister's half of the paper to become the sole owner; and

WHEREAS, despite numerous locations in the paper's rich history, the *Cannon Courier* is now located on West Water Street in the former bookkeeping section of the Bank of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Bryson sold the paper to Ron Fryar, who is a recognized leader in Tennessee professional journalism and who predicts "a strong future" for locally owned newspapers like the *Cannon Courier*; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend a very distinguished publication, the *Cannon Courier*, upon the very special occasion of the newspaper's 130th Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.